To become a anaesthetist with MSF you will need …

• completed specialist medical training in anaesthetics
• experience in paediatric and gynecological anaesthetics, neonatal reanimation and emergency and intensive care medicine
• sound knowledge of inhalation, spinal and regional anaesthesia
• experience in managing a surgical department and/or the willingness to do so
• the ability to work in very basic conditions e.g. without oxygen equipment, monitoring apparatus and preoperative diagnostic facilities
• improvisational talent e.g. in the repair of anaesthesia equipment
• experience travelling or working in a 'developing' country
• fluency in English; knowledge of French, Arabic and/or Russian an advantage
• at least six to twelve weeks availability

Take the challenge – work with MSF

During your mission you will experience challenging working situations and living conditions that will connect you with the team and the local people. You will work with basic tools, share amenities with your colleagues, including computers, showers and refrigerators. Improvisational skills and independence will be essential, as will the ability to remain calm and capable of working constructively in a team even under strained circumstances. This is because you will be working on the ground with a small, international, multidisciplinary team and in close collaboration with your local colleagues. You will learn a lot: about the people in your project and about yourself.

With Médecins Sans Frontières you will frequently be working in clinics in which there is a lack of anaesthetists and nurse anaesthetists – for instance, during or after (civil) wars. You will be administering anaesthesia in situations in which your own clinical observation is often the principal monitoring procedure, caring for both pre- and post-operative patients, giving training to local colleagues and drafting emergency plans for situations with a large number of wounded.
“Working for MSF means improvising a lot, for example, when there is no respiratory equipment, important drugs are missing or the power goes off. In spite of everything by working together we manage to provide our patients with good-quality care – and that is always a fantastic feeling. But in the project I don’t just work in the operating theatre. I also recruit local staff, run training courses, write operation plans, do office work and build up the blood bank. If need be, I also work on the intensive care ward and help care for seriously ill patients. Unlike in Germany, in the project you quickly end up as one of the most experienced team members. That all means a lot of responsibility and long working days. What helps is that we work very closely together and can lend each other mutual support.” Klaus Konstantin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and other places

“My previous experience as an anaesthetist helped me a great deal in my missions for MSF. Difficult situations kept on coming up in which I had to decide what to do on the spot. At the same time, working with the national team helped me to gain a lot of new insights. The fact that we international anaesthetists frequently change every two to three months is not always easy for our national colleagues to deal with. So it’s good that we can pass on our knowledge and train them in new skills – that makes a great deal of difference to everyone concerned.” Marjorie Ann Ladion, Somalia and Nigeria

INTERESTED? Then please go to

www.aerzte-ohne-grenzen.de/mitarbeiten to find out more.

There you can also download an application form.

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Project work opens up whole new realms of experience: both professional and personal.